

was given to the admirable sound sense of
what she said,
than to her dress and appearance But the
fact that she
saw sweating as arising wherever working
conditions

escaped the regulations either of the Factory
Acts or of
the Trade Union, was, for herself, a shaft of
light cast
forward and one that was to carry her far

Altogether, her experiences with the
Charles Booth
Enquiry were decisive It was then that her
mind began
to work on, and to challenge, the whole system
established

as the outcome of the Industrial Revolution,
that " most
far-reaching experiment with the lives of
other people,"

and to seek for alternatives—if there were any
—to the
dictatorship of the few over the many The
Social Demo-
cratic Federation loudly asserted that there
was such an
alternative, but she found little comfort in
them they
were preaching

"what seemed to me nothing but a catastrophic
overturning of
the existing order, by forces of whose existence I
saw no sign,
in order to substitute what appealed to me the
vaguest of
incomprehensible Utopias "

But there was another alternative—that of the
"self-
employment" practised by the Co-operative
Into this,
she became anxious to enquire Professor Alfred
Mai shall,
whom she met during a visit to her great
friends, the
Creightons, at Cambridge, tried to put her
off She
ought rather to settle down to study female
labour

"If you devote yourself to the study of your own
sex as an
industrial factor, your name will be a household

word
hundred years hence, if you write a history of Co-^{two}
operation^{it}
will be superseded and ignored in a year or two,"

he told her

Professor Marshall was, however, dealing
with a keener
mind than he realised She knew that the
unique quali-
fication he saw her as possessing for the
historian of female